

Announcements.

DAKIN, CRICKSHANK & COMPANY, LIMITED.

HAVE JUST RECEIVED
A CONSIGNMENT OFILFORD DRY
PLATES,4, 5, 1/2, 10/8, 12/10,
and are offering the same at popular prices.SENSITIZED ALBUMENIZED
PAPER,
3 1/2 in. dia.

CHURCH AND RELIABLE.

DAKIN, CRICKSHANK & Co., Ltd.,
VICTORIA DISPENSARY,
HONGKONG,
Hongkong, 13th October, 1894.

THE

HONGKONG
DISPENSARYHas received by the S.S. Sydney and from
other sources the Very Latest NoveltiesIN
CHRISTMAS CARDS
AND
NEW YEAR CARDS.

Comprising—

JAPANESE AND ENGLISH CARDS, hand-
painted and of Artistic Designs; JAPANESE
VIEWS, VIEWS OF HONGKONG AND TYPES
OF NATIVE CHARACTER,

Also,

FURTHER SUPPLIES

By S.S. Ronghai and Canton of
WHOLESALE CONFECTIONERY

AND

DELICIOUS SWEETS.

These Shipments include—

CANDY'S SPECIAL CREMES,
PATE D'APRICOTS, JORDAN ALMONDS,
CARAMELS, PRALINES,CHOCOLATE, OYSTERS,
DESSERT CHOCOLATE,BUTTER SCOTCH, ALMOND ROCK,
EVERTON TOFFEE, ASSORTED TOFFEE
FRY'S CHOCOLATES,

MILK CHOCOLATES,

TANGERINE, BISHOP'S,
ORANGE PASTE, ROLLS,
&c., &c., &c.

together with

FANCY BOXES,

which are very suitable for Seasonable Presents
for LADIES AND CHILDREN.

AND

FRENCH CONFECTIONERY

AND

CONSERVES,

from the very best Parisian Houses including—
FRUIT JELLIES, PARISIENS,
CRYSTALLISED APRICOTS, CHERRIES,
KEENAGERS, &c.,

in large assortment.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LD.,
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,
Hongkong, 17th November, 1894.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

SUBSCRIBERS TO "THE HONGKONG
TELEGRAPH" ARE MOST RESPECTFULLY
REMINDED THAT ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS
MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1894.

TELEGRAMS.

THE CHINA-JAPAN WAR.

LONDON, December 12th.
News from Yokohama states that the Japanese
troops have taken Kaimimato, in Manchuria,
by assault.The Second Army Corps is advancing unop-
posed to Fuchow, and maintaining communication
with the First Army Corps, which is also
advancing.

THE DEATH OF M. DE LESSEPS.

The Suez Canal Company defrays the funeral
expenses of M. de Lesseps, who will be accorded
military honours.

LATE TELEGRAMS.

LONDON, November 24th.

The result of the London School Board
elections shows that the Progressives have
gained six seats, but the Moderates still have a
majority of four. The greatest keenness has
been displayed throughout the election, the
Church party making a great effort to obtain a
good majority.

NEW YORK, November 24th.

The issue of fifty million dollars of 5 per cent.
bonds for replenishing the gold in the Treasury
has been covered four times.At a meeting of shipowners held at Glasgow
it was decided to make a large reduction in the
rate of freight to India to meet the competition
of the Manchester Ship Canal.

LONDON, November 28th.

The Japanese reserves have arrived at Port
Arthur, and Count Oyama, with a large force,
has left for Shanghai. After the capture of
that place, he will advance upon Peking, as any
attack upon Wei-hai-wei is considered to be
useless.

PARIS, November 28th.

The Queen of Madagascar has issued a pro-
clamation exhorting her subjects to offer every
resistance to the French invasion. The pro-
clamation has been received by the Malagasy
with enthusiasm.

LONDON, November 29th.

The Japanese army operating from Hiroshima
have defeated the Chinese near Platten-Hof.
The Japanese lost forty killed and wounded, but
the Chinese loss is very considerable.Mr. Cecil Rhodes has obtained for the Char-
tered South Africa Company the direct admini-
stration of all territory north of the Zambesi ex-
cept Nyasaland.
It is reported that the Mitrin is desirous
of the Crown Prince marrying a European
Princess, and the Japanese Ambassadors to the
European Courts have been instructed
accordingly.

FOOCHOW RACES.

WINTER MEETING, 1894.

Stewards: Messrs. H. Baker, Wm. Graham,
H. Edgar, R. W. Mansfield, Thos. Gittles,
J. C. Oswald, and A. W. Walkinshaw.THIRD DAY.—THURSDAY, 13TH DECEMBER,
1894.The JEDGER CUP presented; value \$100; for all
China ponies; weights as per scale; winners at
this meeting 10 lbs. extra; entrance \$5. Once
round and a distance.Mr. Ramsay's b. Congo, 11st 11lb. 1
Mr. T. H. Edgar's b. Bonbon, 10st 11lb. 2
Mr. Ramsay's ch. Pandey, 10st 11lb. 3
Time, 1 min. 34.5 secs.The CHAASER CUP, value \$100, with \$15 to the
Second pony; for all China Ponies *bona fide*
winners at this meeting 10 lbs. extra; entrance \$5.
Once round and a distance.Mr. Ramsay's b. Congo, 11st 11lb. 1
Mr. T. H. Edgar's b. Bonbon, 10st 11lb. 2
Mr. Ramsay's ch. Pandey, 10st 11lb. 3
Time, 1 min. 34.5 secs.General Toppin's wh. Snowdrop, 11st 11lb. 1
Mr. H. Edgar's wh. Macaroni, 11st 11lb. 2
Mr. Clippin's ch. Chipper, 11st 11lb. 3
Time, 1 min. 34.5 secs.The LADIES PURSE presented; for all China
Ponies; weights as per scale; winners at
this meeting 10 lbs. extra; entrance \$5. Once
round.Mr. Ramsay's gr. Hard Times, 11st 11lb. 1
(incl. 7 lb. ex.)
Mr. T. H. Edgar's gr. Kinder, 10st 11lb. 2
Messrs. Rouge & Co.'s d. Yarra, 10st 11lb. 3
Time, 1 min. 22 secs.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

The English mail had not been delivered when
we went to press.In consequence of the death of Mr. M. Hopkins,
the meeting of the "Odd Volumes" convened
for this evening has been postponed *sine die*.We shall deal with the Chamber of Commerce's
latest attempt to impose on the Government
and make fools of the community in our next
issue.Two Chinese astronomers, says *Pearson's*
Weekly, have been put to death by the Emperor
Kwang-su for getting drunk on the night when
an eclipse was due. Very like a camel!An Emergency meeting of St. John Lodge, No.
618, S.C., will be held in Freemasons' Hall,
Zetland Street, to-morrow, at 5 for 5.30 p.m.
precisely. Visiting brethren are cordially invited.The Agents (Messrs. Dredwell, Carill & Co.)
inform us that the North Pacific Steamship
Co.'s steamer *SABA* arrived at Yokohama to-day
and will leave for this port on the 15th inst.The adjourned extraordinary general meeting of
shareholders in the Shamson Coal Co., Ltd.,
which was called for this afternoon, will be held
on Thursday next, the 20th instant, at 4.40 p.m.,
at the office of the Company in Bank Buildings.THERE can be little doubt that fully half the
sickness to which the Chinese appear to be heir-
to in feebly overworking this colony, is due
either to their unhealthy surroundings, or to
climatic or hereditary conditions. More of this
anon."The children" on Finance:—
Levi, jun. (horrid)—"But father, why did you
take von pound nineteen and eleven pence
halfpenny ven his account var two pounds?"
Levi, senior—"Hush, my son, don't you see?
I safe a halfpenny py der receipt stamp."The Rangoon Times says that the Madras
Government is likely to receive a well-merited
slap in the face when the renowned "kissing
case" comes to be discussed in the House of
Commons. There is a probability of Dr. Smith's
being re-elected as he ought to be.A TELEGRAM has been received in Singapore
from Rangoon dated Dec. 12th, which says:—
The rough clean-up of the battery yielded 950 oz.
of amalgam, the estimated quantity of stone
crushed being 450 tons. The battery is only
working twelve hours a day on account of bad
weather.PARIS is said to be the cleanest city in the world.
Every morning 2,000 male and 600 female
scavengers, divided into 140 brigades, turn out
to perform the toilet of the capital. The men
work from 4 o'clock in the morning to 4 o'clock
in the evening, less two hours off for meals, or
ten hours a day. The women are engaged in the
morning only.THERE is one delightful anecdote touching the
King of Ava's reply to the request of an American
missionary for leave to try to make converts
among his Majesty's subjects. The King told
Dr. Price that he granted his request and that he
might preach his religion, but whenever his sub-
jects were converted by it he should cut off their
heads and send them by air to the paradise
of which the Doctor had told them.REFERRING to the paragraph inserted in our
issue of the 5th inst., we are informed by the
manager of the Bank of China, Japan and the
Strait, Ltd., that he has received a further
telegram from his Head Office in London
advising that the meeting which took place
on the 12th inst., the resolution put to the share-
holders was duly carried. The extraordinary
meeting has been fixed for the 28th inst.THERE are 20,000 persons engaged upon editorial
work on daily and weekly papers in the United
States.A BARCASTIC correspondent says that the prin-
cipal reason why the Sanitary Board has
hitherto proved an utter abortion, and a source
rather of danger than a protection to the health
of the community—is because there has never
been a life insurance agent amongst the
'chosen seven.'Bank Clerk—This cheque, madam, isn't filled
in.
Mrs. Spendall—Isn't what?Bank Clerk—It has your husband's name
signed to it, but does not state how much money
you want.
Mrs. S.—Oh, is that all? Well, I'll take all
there is.AN American newspaper correspondent who
lately arrived at Montevideo overland from Rio
de Janeiro, having passed through the entire
interfering country, reports that he saw on the
way the bodies of fourteen men who had been
buried alive in a standing position by order
of the Brazilian commanders, but with their
heads exposed, and who had perished either
from starvation or from the attacks of vultures,
which had eaten out their eyes and picked the
skulls bare of flesh.THE general meeting of creditors of Mr. Smith
Allison, wine merchant and commission agent,
of Stanley Street and Queen's Road Central,
was held in the office of Mr. C. F. A. Sargent,
Official Receiver, this morning. The debtor
and his solicitor, Mr. C. D. Wilkinson, were
present, but none of the creditors put in an
appearance. Some important discussion took
place, and then the general meeting was
adjourned *sine die* pending the completion of
the public examination of the debtor.A NEW method of coaling big vessels has been
successfully carried out in America. On the
wharf is a moving walkway on the same plan
as a colonial one. A truck is run on one
end, this end is raised, and the truck slides down
to the other end, and its contents are tipped into
the bunkers. Trucks containing 50 tons of coal
were dealt with, and a vessel of 3,000 tons was
loaded in about eight hours—a decided improve-
ment on the present style, in which it takes ten
or twelve men shovelling in buckets about four
days to do the same work.DON Scipione B. B. here, Prince of Salmons,
is about to restore the fortunes of his house by
marrying the Duchess of Galliera, who brings
him a fortune of \$500,000. The Borgehesi
family was ruined a few years ago by undertaking
to put up new buildings in Rome on a large
scale, and was only prevented from selling the art
treasures of the Borgehesi and the Borgehesi
Gallery. The most famous of these is Canova's
statue of Pauline Bonaparte, Napoleon's sister,
who married into the family.HARMSTON'S CIRCUS still finds favour with the
multitude, but-rivalled in the Chinese
Japan was depicted night in the arena drawing
large numbers of Chinese who dearly love to
see the "Tommy" knock the hated and despised
Yan into a cocked-hat. To-night all the
best acts in this first-class Company's extensive
repertoire will be given before the tragic art
of the business community, and for to-morrow
an elaborate programme, including
interesting jumping contest, the local amateur
horsemanship, and a special feature, the acrobatics
of the famous Mrs. W. B. Harmsston, who
should be accorded a bumper house and very
hearty reception by the public of Hongkong.As stated in our issue of the 11th instant would
be the case, vigorous efforts are being made to
save the three hapless boys who were recently
charged at the Police Court for an alleged
assault upon the Chinese Customs officers who
committed what amounted to an act of
piracy in British waters on the 9th ultimo
(when they seized a Chinese junk, the
Quanyay, on the plea that she was a salt
smuggler) and Mr. H. L. Denny, who has been
retained by a number of residents who are of
opinion that the unfortunate youths now held
for rendition are innocent and that the action of
the Customs' officers was a gross and wholly
unwarranted outrage, has made an application to
the Supreme Court for the writ of *habeas corpus*,
which Mr. Woodhouse, in committing the latter
to gaol, had declined to grant, and the Chinese
authorities, said could be applied for within fifteen days.THE truth about the "heroic assault on the
heights of Port Arthur and the desperate
resistance of the Chinese" is gradually coming
to the surface. An eye-witness of the whole
affair, the war "special" of the *Kohhai*
Shimbun to wit, in his detailed report of the fall
of that important fortress, states positively—"The
Chinese fled during the night, so that in the
morning of the 22nd not one of the enemy could
be found, and over twenty forts fell into the
hands of the Japanese in a single day."
The spoils are in the shape of two steam
launches, a sailing vessel, a Chinese junk, a
dredger in the harbour, and an iron vessel half
built. There are also several hundred iron
rails, 30 fish torpedoes, and over 600 cannon,
besides an innumerable number of rifles. It will
be remembered that the first reports of the spoils
were to the effect that 10,000 tons of steel rails,
15,000 tons of coal and a Chinese warship had
fallen into the hands of the Japs.

SUPREME COURT.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

(Before Mr. E. J. Ashford, Acting Chief
Justice.)

December 13th.

LEE KINO & CO. v. CARLOWITZ & CO.
A very lengthy judgment in this charter-party
case, which has been dragging its weary length
through the law Courts for months past, and in
which Mr. E. J. Ashford, instructed by Messrs.
Simpson, Strickland & Co., appeared for the
defendants and Mr. J. Francis, Q.C., instructed
by Mr. V. H. Deacon, was for the Chinese
plaintiffs, was delivered by the Acting
Chief Justice this morning. The judgment is a
statement of claim and the judgment is a
statement of claim.The plaintiffs claim a sum of \$1,000,000, the
amount of a charter-party dated 18th December 1893,
for freight on a cargo of coal 22 steamship *Lee*
from Moll to Hongkong. It was decreed by the
Supreme Court on the 2d August, 1894, that the
sum claimed be paid to the defendants with
costs, the plaintiffs admitting a breach of the
charter-party in question, and the case was then
referred to the Registrar of the Court to inquire
into the facts of the case, and to report thereon
to the Court. The Registrar has now reported
that the facts of the case are as follows:—The
charter-party was made between the plaintiffs
and the defendants, and the defendants were
to deliver to the plaintiffs a cargo of coal 22
steamship *Lee* from Moll to Hongkong. The
charter-party was made on the 18th December
1893, and the defendants were to deliver to the
plaintiffs a cargo of coal 22 steamship *Lee*
from Moll to Hongkong. The charter-party was
made on the 18th December 1893, and the
defendants were to deliver to the plaintiffs a cargo
of coal 22 steamship *Lee* from Moll to Hongkong.
The charter-party was made on the 18th Decem-
ber 1893, and the defendants were to deliver to
the plaintiffs a cargo of coal 22 steamship *Lee*
from Moll to Hongkong. The charter-party was
made on the 18th December 1893, and the
defendants were to deliver to the plaintiffs a cargo
of coal 22 steamship *Lee* from Moll to Hongkong.To-day his lordship decided that the Registrar's
report should be referred back to him
to ascertain what loss the defendants
(Carlowitz & Co.) sustained through the non-
arrival of the *Lee* on due date, the calculation to
be based on the loss on the market value, if any,
between the date when the *Lee* should have
arrived and her actual arrival in the port of
Hongkong.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

As stated in our last issue, a meeting of the
Finance Committee was held immediately after
the Governor had adjourned the Council until
Monday, the 17th instant. Mr. J. H. Stewart
Lockhart presided, and all the members were
present. The proceedings, especially in respect
to the manner in which the Military Contribution
was juggled through, as usual by the Official
Palatine, were of considerable importance to the
ratepayers generally.

THE MILITARY EXTORTION.

The amount asked for under the head of
Military Expenditure was \$305,000.
Mr. C. P. Chater—I should like to have a
little information on this subject. I think the
matter was brought before the Council about
this time last year by the hon. member opposite
(Mr. J. J. Kewick) and afterwards by myself,
and I think it was then suggested the Governor
should write and submit to the Secretary of
State a reconsideration of the amount of the
Military Contribution. The amount was increased
from \$20,000 to \$40,000, and owing to the
depreciation of exchange the amount in dollars
has steadily grown; and now I see another in-
crease of \$50,000 for 1895. I should like to know
what has been done in the matter. I think we
are informed that Mr. Kewick had written a
despatch on the subject, but I do not recollect
having heard of any answer being received, or
at any rate given to us. That being the case,
unless we are assured the matter is having the
consideration of the Secretary of State, I for one
am not prepared to vote this sum.The Chairman—His Excellency has, I know,
made more than one representation to the
Secretary of State on this subject, but no definite
decision has yet been received. Whenever a
definite decision is received I feel certain His
Excellency will communicate it to the Council.
Mr. C. P. Chater—Under those circumstances
I beg to move an amendment to the Bill that
this vote be not passed.Mr. J. J. Kewick seconded.
A division was taken, when there voted for
the amendment, Messrs. A. McCoskie, E.
R. Biddle, Mr. J. J. Kewick, and C. P.
Chater (3). Against The Harbour Master, the
Director of Public Works, the Colonial Treasurer,
the Attorney-General, and the Chairman (5).
The Chairman—I give my casting vote against
the amendment.Dr. Ho Kai—I think it has been decided
before that the Chairman of the Finance Com-
mittee has not a casting vote.
The Chairman—(I think a former Chairman
on a previous occasion accepted the position
that he had not a casting vote. I believe that I
have a casting vote, and I have voted against the
amendment. I am as much entitled to give my
opinion on the subject as a previous Chairman.
I may be wrong or he may be wrong. At any
rate I give my casting vote against the amend-
ment.Mr. C. P. Chater—For future guidance I
think it would be well to decide definitely
whether the Chairman has or has not a casting
vote. As you say, a former Chairman decided
that he had not and now you decide that you
have. I think for the sake of uniformity, it should
be placed on record whether the Chairman has
or has not a casting vote.The Chairman—I quite agree with you that
it would be better to have a definite ruling on
the point, but as no definite ruling has been
given, I cannot see my way to accept the ruling
of a previous Chairman. I think under the
circumstances you will feel I am fully justified.Mr. C. P. Chater—The amendment having
been voted against by the Chairman, I would
request you to bring the matter to the
notice of His Excellency the Governor and sug-
gest that it would be well once more to represent
to the Secretary of State that although this item
is passed, it is passed only by the official majority,
and only with the casting vote of the Chairman,
and that as far as the unofficials are concerned
they are anxiously awaiting a readjustment of
this matter.The Chairman—When bringing up the report
of the Finance Committee I will make a point
of informing His Excellency of what has taken
place, and you might do so yourself. It will
be placed on record, and of course you will have
an opportunity of again expressing your views when
the Bill comes up for second reading or when
the Council goes into Committee upon it.

A POST OFFICE SCANDAL.

The Chairman announced that the Governor
had recommended the Council to vote the
sum of \$94,005 to cover a deficiency in the
accounts of the late postal agent at
Ningpo, who had left leaving a deficiency in
his accounts, which it was desirable should be
made good. He was glad to be able to state,
though, that a letter had been received from Mr.
Playfair, the British Consul at Ningpo, who was
taking steps on behalf of the Hongkong Govern-
ment and who hoped that nearly the whole of
it, if not the full, amount due would be
received.Dr. Ho Kai—Is not a Postal Agent secured?
The Chairman—I understand they are not
secured in any way.
Dr. Ho Kai—But surely if they have large
sums of money passing through their hands they
ought to have some security; otherwise, what
would prevent a repetition of this?Mr. C. P. Chater—Are no steps being taken to
prevent recurrence of such deficiencies?
The Chairman—The question of the postal
agents at the treaty ports is now under the con-
sideration of the Government, and when it has
been decided I will inform you what steps have
been taken. In the meantime I ask you to pass
this vote.The Colonial Treasurer seconded and the vote
was passed *unanimously*.

THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 1895.

The Chairman—I propose in accordance with
the precedents of former years to take each item
of the Bill in succession, and if any hon.
member has any question to ask or desires any
information I will be very glad to supply it.

THE P. W. D.

The vote under the head of Public Works
Department was increased by \$1,200, the
amount of salary of a clerk which had been
accidentally omitted. The salary of the corres-
pondence clerk was formerly \$2,400, but a
vacancy having occurred, it was proposed to fill
it at a salary of \$1,200.
Agreed.
TITM WATERWORKS.
Mr. Belliss moved that the sum of \$104,000
set down for the extension of Titm water reser-
voir be altered to \$60,000.
Agreed.
NEW POLICE QUARTERS.
A vote of \$1,000 was passed to cover the
cost of a new police station and constable
quarters of the valuable ground that has so long
remained vacant at the junction of Arbuthnot
and Hollywood Roads and Fanning Street.THE "CHANCELLOR" EXPLAINS.
Mr. Mitchell Jones—it should be publicly
stated, I think, that the appropriations in aid of
the different departments have been deducted
from expenditure this year. It is a new way of
stating it. We are asking for a sum which we
have the intention to exceed. Of course we
shall have to expend the gross amount. I only
wish to avoid any misunderstanding.There were no other alterations to the Appropria-
tion Bill (1895) and it was recommended in
its amended form, after which the Committee
adjourned *sine die*.HINTS ON MAGNETISM AND
ELECTRIC LIGHTING.A marine engineer, whose practical experience
is probably unsurpassed by any of his
colleagues in the Far East, has handed to us
for publication the following interesting com-
ments, which are apposite to the subject-matter
of the paper read by Mr. Biddle at the Marine
Engineers' Institute on Tuesday, and of which
a full report will be found in another column:—
On principle I object to the single wire system
of electric lighting on board ship, as it tends to
make the deviation of the compasses much
greater and more irregular than they otherwise
would be.During my early studies of iron ship-building
with Messrs. Grant & Murray and others,
I found that a ship's hull during construction
received and retained a certain amount of the
earth's magnetism which was induced by the
hammering at and riveting together of the plates
forming the hull, and thus it became a huge
magnet of considerable intensity. I found the
lines of magnetic attraction permeating the hull
did not invariably operate in a straight line, or
in a line with the keel. Very often they were
curved and ran in various directions induced,
principally, by the direction (magnetic) in which
the ship's head, or lines, bore during con-
struction, and these sub-permanent magnetic
lines of force, or attraction, are principally
the cause of many errors of the compass,
namely, the semicircular error, felt most when
a ship is on a due North, East, South or
West course, and partially modified by finding
a permanent magnet on the deck, in line
with the keel and in an opposite polarity with
that of the ship herself, and a sufficient distance
from the compass to make its presence felt to
the extent of correcting the ship's compass
sufficiently to set the "standard" true magnetic
when swinging a ship to adjust her compasses.Another error of a ship's compass is noticed
when the earth's magnetism induces magnetism
in the hull, and the hull is a magnet, and pro-
duces the quadrantal error. This is chiefly
observable when a vessel is on a N.E., S.E.,
S.W. or N.W. course. This error is, however,
modified by magnets placed at right angles to the
closest possible correction is arrived at.
The "healing error" is due to the rolling and
pitching of a ship, which has been considerably
reduced by the new compass made by Mr.
Moore, of Dublin, which is said to be superior
in this respect to Sir William Thomson's cele-
brated patent compass, and on scientific prin-
ciples Mr. Moore can no doubt claim special
advantages for his invention. The "healing
error" is modified by placing magnets vertically
underneath the compass.Errors of the compass are also due to carry-
ing cargoes of machinery, steel, iron, and cable
on board, and even by a large iron band
on the end of a boom, as stated by Lecky in his
"Wrinkles in Navigation." It may be here
stated, too, that there are numerous other con-
tributory causes, such as passing headwinds,
which happen to possess more or less magnetic
attraction. Local influences on an iron ship in
the vicinity of the "swinging" necessitate the
handling of a "Correction Card" to the master
by the official adjuster. And it is well known,
of course, that the navigator of the present day
has to constantly study and allow for continual
variations or declinations, which vary all over
the globe.Electric lighting causes errors, especially when
a ship is fitted on the single-wire system.
I will now give some details of my experience
with electric lighting on board ship: The first
steamer fitted on the single-wire system was a
despatch vessel for the Queensland Government,
the *Lucinda*, built by Messrs. William Denny
and Brothers, of Dumbarton, early in 1885.
Before leaving with the ship I called Mr.
Archibald Denny's attention to the objections I
had to the single-wire system, but he did not
think at that time that the system was bad;
subsequent observations, however, proved it to
be far from satisfactory. I mentioned my ideas
to the Captain (Wilson) and Mr. Hudson,
chief officer of the vessel, and I found afterwards
the latter gentleman communicated his observa-
tions to the *Nautical Magazine*, and may be
found in the December number of that journal
for the year 1885. I have, I may add, a testi-
monial before me from the Secretary of the
Government of Queensland, which he furnished
me with after the *Lucinda* had been deli-
vered to Australia. It is dated June 3rd,
1885. The next paper on the subject was
published in May, 1886, and was written by Sir
William Thomson, his theme being security
against disturbance of ships' compasses by
electric lighting appliances. *Vide Proc. Inst.
E. & M. Vol. XXVIII.*Professor Jamieson found a deviation of nine
degrees in a ship's steering compass about the
same date, in 1889, and was compelled to
duplicate the wires in the immediate neighbour-
hood of the compass to rectify it.
In volume LXXIX. of the above mentioned
Society's publication, the interesting matter will
be found regarding the objectionable single-
wire system. There is no doubt a saving in
the initial cost of the single-wire system, but
there are the disadvantages of increased
resistance by corrosion at every negative
contact with the ship's side, or beam; from the
damages which all iron structures accumulate,
which is well known; and if the magnetic
pole of the dynamo is earthed to the ship's
side, there is always a certain amount of electro-
lytic action going on (which is pretty generally
known) with all connections of dissimilar metals,
and it is generally admitted that a saving is
gained in avoiding all continually increasing
resistance and a free use of copper in making
the leads large, which, of course, means weight
resistance, which competent men always recom-
mend should be used with the best of insulated
wire when setting up any installation on board
ship.

DAVID SASSOON, SONS & Co.
Hongkong, 5th December, 1894. [100]

